

Sharing Effective Strategies for Providing Housing/Services to Homeless

The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) teamed with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) to sponsor a Northeast Regional Housing Conference in Providence, Rhode Island on September 7 and 8, 2006.

This meeting represented an opportunity for representatives from our Division of Mental Health, Office of Alcohol & Drug Abuse Programs, Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust, Vermont Housing Finance Agency and HMIS staff to share their experiences on providing housing with services to individuals who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. The nine other states that attended with the Vermont team discussed best practices, financing and collaboration among state systems that have improved housing and services within their own states.

Over 60 representatives from 10 states and the District of Columbia attended the meeting; each state brought a team of five individuals at NASMHPD's expense. Brian Smith of VDH staff served as the Vermont team leader.

An outcome of this conference is the expectation that the Corporation for Supportive Housing will participate in the Vermont Association for Mental Health's Association's annual conference in Montpelier on October 30, 2006.

Statewide Program Standing Committee for Adult Mental Health

The Statewide Program Standing Committee for Adult Mental Health met at Stanley Hall in Waterbury on Monday, September 11, 2006. Among the items on the agenda were re-designation for Washington County Mental Health Services, updates on the Vermont State Hospital and the monthly patients' forum, and a briefing from the Division of Mental Health on the settlement reached this summer with the Department of Justice on the investigation that began two years ago under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA).

Please note that the Standing Committee's October meeting will be held on October 2 because Columbus Day this year falls on the Standing Committee's regular meeting date. Click on "Upcoming Meetings" to see the 2007 schedule of Adult Standing Committee meetings.

FUTURES PROJECT

Burlington Site Review Group

Seven sites on the Medical Center campus of Fletcher Allen are being evaluated relative to 30 considerations, including assessment of

- accessibility of medical and clinical services
- physical connectivity
- space requirements
- zoning and permitting issues
- integration with medical, clinical and teaching programs

A matrix shows the relative advantages and disadvantages of each site option measured against these and other considerations. The site options are ranked with a plus (positive), minus (negative), zero (neutral), or question mark, indicating unknown at this time. As the site options are further evaluated, the matrix will be adjusted to reflect new information. See the website for a copy of the matrix and the PowerPoint used to help inform the Site Review Group's discussion of site considerations.

Care Management Work Group

The Care Management Work Group voted to adopt a core document, *Principles that Guide the Movement of Clients through the System*, at its meeting on September 15th. The principles address a wide range of issues that are fundamental to a transformed mental health care system. These include client choice, placement decisions, access to services, quality care management, community oversight, and other core principles. The statement of principles adopted by the clinical and program leaders serving on the Care Management Work Group is posted on the website, as are the minutes from the August 25th meeting.

Vermont State Hospital Census

The Vermont State Hospital census was 53 as of midnight Wednesday night. The average census for the past 45 days was 51.